

Thomas Jefferson Memorial

*"I have sworn upon the altar
of God eternal hostility against
every form of tyranny over
the mind of man."*



I AM NOT AN ADVOCATE FOR FREQUENT
CHANGES IN LAWS AND CONSTITUTIONS.
BUT LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS MUST GO
HAND IN HAND WITH THE PROGRESS
OF THE HUMAN MIND AS THAT BECOMES
MORE DEVELOPED, MORE ENLIGHTENED.
AS NEW DISCOVERIES ARE MADE NEW
TRUTHS DISCOVERED AND MANNERS AND
OPINIONS CHANGE. WITH THE CHANCE
OF CHANGE.

Thomas Jefferson: A Chronology

1743 Born at Shadwell, Albemarle County, Va., April 13
■ 1769-75 Member of Virginia House of Burgesses; very early a part of an increasingly anti-British faction; helped set up Virginia Committee of Correspondence
■ 1775-76 Attended Continental Congress; chosen to be on committee to write the Declaration of Independence and became its principal author ■ 1776-79 Member of Virginia House of Delegates; involved in rewriting state legal code to reflect republican principles concerning landholding, inheritance, and criminal law; drafted Virginia statute for religious freedom with the help of James Madison ■ 1779-81 Governor of Virginia ■ 1784-89 Ambassador to France; studies of architecture and Roman ruins led him to introduce the classical style in the United States, of which the Virginia State Capitol, the University of Virginia, and Monticello, his home, are notable examples ■ 1789-93 Secretary of State

under President George Washington; bargained with Alexander Hamilton to locate the Federal City on the Potomac River ■ 1797-1801 Vice President under President John Adams; supported states rights; opposed Alien and Sedition Acts as unwarranted infringement of individual liberties and of freedom of speech ■ 1801-09 President; negotiated the Louisiana Purchase that doubled the size of the United States; sponsored Lewis and Clark Expedition to the mouth of the Columbia River; strove to maintain peace and not be drawn into the war between Great Britain and France ■ 1809-26 Lived at Monticello; drew up plans, supervised construction, and outlined curriculum of the University of Virginia; corresponded extensively with John Adams ■ 1826 Died on 50th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, July 4, a few hours before John Adams